

Case 3299

***Staphylinus punctulatus* Paykull, 1789 (currently *Gyrohypnus punctulatus*; Insecta, Coleoptera, STAPHYLINIDAE): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.5 of the Code, is to conserve the specific name of *Staphylinus punctulatus* Paykull, 1789. The name is a junior primary homonym of *Staphylinus punctulatus* Goeze, 1777 (currently *Othius punctulatus*), but the specific names have not been considered as congeneric since 1830.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; STAPHYLINIDAE; *Gyrohypnus punctulatus*; rove beetles; Palaearctic.

1. The name *Staphylinus punctulatus* was established by Goeze, 1777 (p. 730) for a common species of western palaearctic rove beetle. It was last used in its original combination by Turton (1802, p. 518, misspelled as *pustulatus*) and was removed from the nominal genus *Staphylinus* by Fauvel (1886, p. 47).

2. Paykull, 1789 (p. 30) described another common species of rove beetle (from Sweden) under the name *Staphylinus punctulatus*. The species was placed in the genus *Gyrohypnus* Kirby, 1819 by Curtis (1829, p. 27) and last used in the genus *Staphylinus* by Sahlberg (1830, p. 333). *Gyrohypnus punctulatus* (Paykull) has been cited as a valid name in numerous publications. Herman (2001) listed 26 publications citing *G. punctulatus* (Paykull) as a valid name since 1950, e.g. Bordoni (1982, p. 214), Coiffait (1956, p. 54; 1972, p. 182), Lohse (1958, p. 120; 1964, p. 161), Palm (1963, p. 47), and Tóth (1989, p. 17). Muona (1979, p. 16) replaced the name with *G. ater* (Stephens, 1833, p. 255) and Lohse (1988) replaced it with the junior synonym *G. liebei* (Scheerpeltz, 1926, p. 86). According to Herman (2001), since 1988 the species was listed under both *G. punctulatus* (Paykull) (six times) and *G. liebei* (Scheerpeltz) (four times). Examination of the holotype of *G. liebei* (Scheerpeltz) revealed that the name is a junior synonym of *G. angustatus* Stephens, 1833 (p. 263) and not of *G. punctulatus* (Paykull) (Assing, 2003).

3. Herman (2001) listed no synonym of *Gyrohypnus punctulatus* (Paykull) or *G. liebei* (Scheerpeltz) that would be eligible as a replacement name for *G. punctulatus* (Paykull). The list of synonyms of *G. fracticornis* (Müller, 1776, p. 99), with which *G. punctulatus* (Paykull) had been confused until both species were separated by Lohse (1958), includes three names whose identity had not been reexamined since 1958. However, one of them, *Othius ater* Stephens, 1833 (p. 255), refers to *O. laeviusculus* Stephens, 1833 (p. 255) (Assing, 2003). The two remaining names, *O. obscurus* Stephens, 1833 (p. 256) and *Xantholinus melanarius* Fauvel, 1872 (p. 304), a

replacement name for *X. morio* Reitter, 1872 (p. 167), have not been used as valid names since 1858 and 1873 respectively (Herman, 2001) and their types are apparently lost (Assing, 2003).

4. The name *Staphylinus punctulatus* Paykull, 1789 (currently *Gyrohyppus punctulatus*) is in current use and it has not been considered to be congeneric with its senior primary homonym *Staphylinus punctulatus* Goeze, 1777 (currently *Othius punctulatus*) since 1899. Under Article 23.9.5, a junior primary homonym must not be automatically replaced and the case should be referred to the Commission for a ruling under the plenary power. Both nominal species have been treated in a great number of faunistic and ecological papers and conservation of the long established name *Gyrohyppus punctulatus* (Paykull) is proposed in the interest of stability.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to rule that the specific name *punctulatus* Paykull, 1789, as published in the binomen *Staphylinus punctulatus*, is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *punctulatus* Goeze, 1777, as published in the binomen *Staphylinus punctulatus*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *punctulatus* Paykull, 1789, as published in the binomen *Staphylinus punctulatus* (not invalid by the ruling in (1) above).

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